

**Remarks**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendment and following remarks. Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-9, 13 and 14 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 1-9 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,688,070 to Morelli et al. ("the Morelli reference").

Amended claim 1 is directed to an apparatus including a cylindrical shaft, a hub, and at least one tapered locking key. The cylindrical shaft has at least one longitudinal keyway formed in an outer surface thereof. The at least one keyway has a bottom portion and at least two side walls. The hub has a cylindrical axial bore defining a wall in the hub and is disposable on the shaft to define a maximum distance from the keyway bottom portion to the bore wall. The wall is cylindrical about the entire surface of the axial bore. Further, the entire surface of the axial bore is defined at a constant radial distance from a central axis of the axial bore. The at least one tapered locking key is adapted for insertion into the at least one keyway between the keyway bottom portion and the bore wall. In addition, the key has a pre-insertion maximum height greater than the maximum distance such that at least one of the key and the hub is deformed by the insertion whereby the hub is rotationally and axially secured onto the shaft.

The Morelli reference does not teach or suggest an apparatus having a hub with a cylindrical axial bore defining a wall that is cylindrical about the entire surface of the axial bore, the entire surface of the axial bore being defined at a constant

radial distance from a central axis of the axial bore as recited in amended claim 1.

In contrast, the Morelli reference discloses an axial sleeve (164) including a cylindrical axial bore being defined at a first radial distance from the central axis of the axial bore and a cylindrical keyway being defined at a second radial distance from the central axis of the axial bore. See *Morelli*, FIGS. 6a, 6c, 6f. The axial bore is not defined at a constant radial distance from a central axis of the axial bore as stated in amended claim 1. See *Final Office Action*, pgs. 7-8, ¶ 5.

Since the Morelli fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations included in claim 1, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. As claims 2-6 and 14 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, these claims are also not taught or suggested by the references of record for at least the same reasons set forth with respect to claim 1.

Amended claim 7 is directed to a method for securing a hub having a cylindrical axial bore defined by a bore wall onto a cylindrical shaft. The bore wall is cylindrical about the entire surface of the axial bore. The method includes providing at least one longitudinal keyway in the shaft, wherein at least one keyway has a bottom portion and at least two side walls. The shaft has a solid cross-section along the entire length of the shaft. The method further includes disposing the entirely cylindrical axial bore of the hub onto the shaft to define a maximum distance between the keyway bottom portion and the bore wall, wherein the entire surface of the axial bore is defined at a constant radial distance from a central axis of the axial bore. Moreover, the method includes providing at least one wedging means, and

inserting the at least one wedging means into the at least one keyway between the keyway bottom portion and the bore wall.

For at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, the Morelli reference does not teach or suggest a method that includes disposing the entirely cylindrical axial bore of the hub onto the shaft to define a maximum distance between the keyway bottom portion and the bore wall, the entire surface of the axial bore being defined at a constant radial distance from a central axis of the axial bore as recited in amended claim 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn. As claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7, Applicants request that the rejection of these claims also be withdrawn for at least the same reason set forth with respect to claim 7.

Claims 7-9 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,866,112 to Kindelmann et al. ("the Kindelmann reference").

The Kindelmann reference does not teach or suggest a method that includes providing at least one longitudinal keyway in the shaft, the shaft having a solid cross-section along the entire length of the shaft as recited in amended claim 7. As best seen in FIGS. 1 and 2 of the Kindelmann reference, the keys (17) extend through a pair of apertures defined in the shaft (12). The entire length of the shaft (12) does not have a solid cross-section. See *Final Office Action*, pg. 8. Since the Kindelmann reference fails to teach all the limitations included in claim 7, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn. As claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7, Applicants request that the rejection of these claims based on the

Kindelmann reference also be withdrawn for at least the same reason set forth above.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,560,399 to Preston, Sr. ("the Preston reference").

Amended claim 13 is directed to an apparatus for securing a hub to a shaft including a shaft having an entirely cylindrical outer surface, a hub and at least one locking key. The hub has an axial bore that defines a wall in the hub and has at least one longitudinal keyway formed in an inner surface thereof, wherein the axial bore has an axis. The at least one keyway also has a bottom portion. The hub is disposable on the shaft to define a maximum distance from the keyway bottom portion to the outer surface. Further, the at least one locking key is adapted for insertion into the at least one keyway between the keyway bottom portion and the shaft surface. The at least one key has a pre-insertion maximum radial height greater than the maximum distance such that at least one of the key and the shaft is deformed by the insertion, whereby the hub is rotationally and axially secured onto the shaft. Further, the radial height of the locking key is tapered along a longitudinal axis of the locking key, wherein the longitudinal axis is parallel with the axis of the axial bore.

The Preston reference does not teach or suggest an apparatus having at least one locking key having a radial height that is tapered along a longitudinal axis of the locking key, wherein the longitudinal axis is parallel with the axis of the axial bore as recited in amended claim 13. Instead, the key (10) in the Preston reference includes sides (11, 12) that have a radial height that is substantially constant along

the longitudinal axis of the key (10). See *Preston*, FIGS. 4 and 7. Therefore, the *Preston* reference fails to teach all of the limitations included in amended claim 13. See *Final Office Action*, pg. 8.

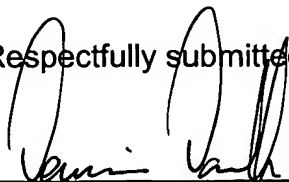
### **Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-9, 13 and 14 are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that any unresolved issues remain in this case, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number listed below to arrange for an issue resolving conference.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due at this time, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may have been overlooked to Deposit Account No. 10-0223.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dennis B. Danella  
Reg. No. 46,653

**JAECKLE FLEISCHMANN & MUGEL, L.L.P.**  
190 Linden Oaks  
Rochester, New York 14625-2812  
Tel: (585) 899-2957  
Fax: (585) 899-2931